



Release Highlights: December 22, 2006

MONTANA - State Population Estimates, July 1, 2006: 944,632 Rank 44th
<http://ceic.mt.gov/EstimatesStatePop.asp>

Populations change on a daily basis with births and deaths and by people moving in and out of an area. These components of population change are referred to as Natural Increases and Net Migration which includes either domestic (or Internal) and International Migration.

According to newly released state population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, California had the largest Natural Increase while Texas experienced the largest Net Migration. Overall, Arizona was the fastest growing state at 3.6% while Texas experienced the largest population growth, adding more than half a million persons.

Montana's population increase of nearly 10,000 between July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2006 was driven by Net Internal Migration. Over 6,600 more people moved into the state from other states than moved out. This growth in population of 1.1% ranked the state 19th in the nation. North Dakota experienced the lowest population increase with a growth rate of only 0.2%. Over 2,000 more North Dakota residents moved out of the state than moved in during this same time period.

As can be seen by the map below of Montana and neighboring states, the population increases in the region are driven by more people moving into the area from other states. The second largest population component is Natural Increase, i.e., more births than deaths.

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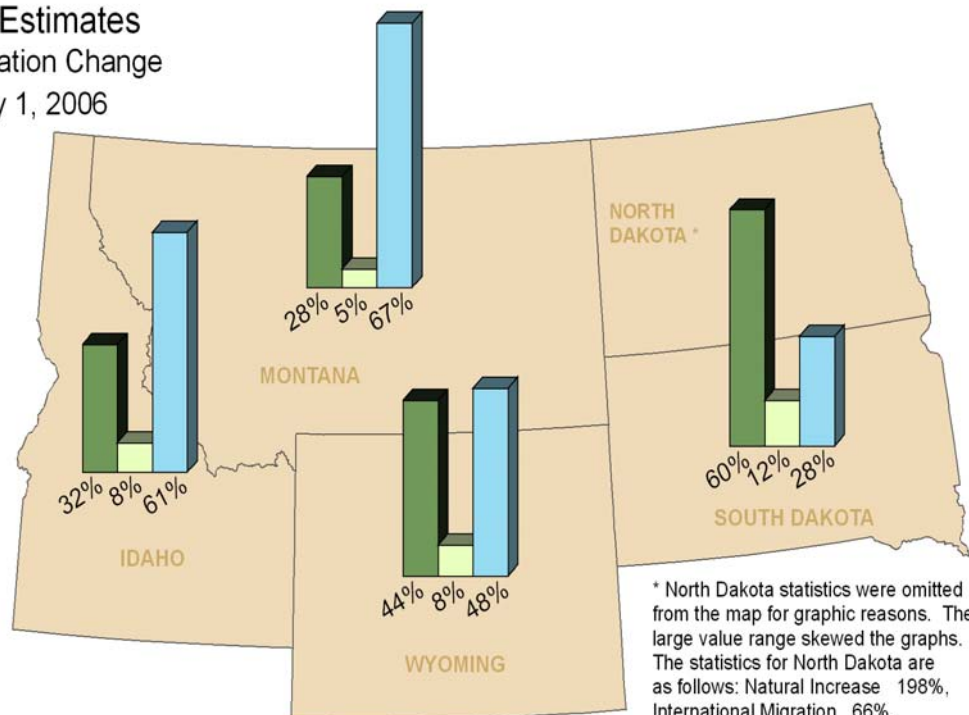
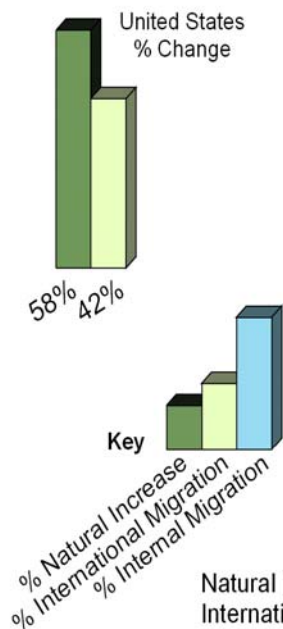
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State Population Estimates Components of Population Change July 1, 2005 - July 1, 2006



* North Dakota statistics were omitted from the map for graphic reasons. Their large value range skewed the graphs. The statistics for North Dakota are as follows: Natural Increase 198%, International Migration 66%, Internal Migration -167%.

Natural Increase is measured as the Birth Rate minus the Death Rate.
International Migration is the movement of people across country borders.
Internal Migration is movement of people within the United States.

Compiled by:
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